

LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. BAYH, Mr. WEBB, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. VITTER, and Ms. COLLINS conferees on the part of the Senate.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no votes until Tuesday morning.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, before the leaders leave the floor, I thank the majority leader and the Republican leader for their tremendous help in putting this agreement together. I look forward to a favorable vote on Tuesday. I wanted them to know how much I and the consumers in this country appreciate immensely the work of the leaders. I thank, particularly, the majority leader, HARRY REID, for his involvement to make it possible for us to get to this moment. I also include Senator SHELBY and others.

I hoped to be able to complete the bill today. Obviously, that didn't happen. We have reached a framework by which we can vote on Tuesday. There will be a managers' amendment, and we hope to be able to accommodate this agreement in that package. It doesn't suggest that every amendment will be agreed to. Where we can, we will try to do that.

This is a strong bill. I thank the members of the Banking Committee—both Democrats and Republicans—who worked on it. I am grateful to Senator SHELBY and his staff for bringing us to this moment in the hopes that on Tuesday we will have the final conclusion of this effort.

I thank the other body, as well, particularly Chairman BARNEY FRANK, from Massachusetts, for his leadership. He has done a masterful job in the other body in bringing Democrats and Republicans together with an overwhelming vote in that Chamber in support of credit card reform. We will talk over the weekend, as we usually do, to see if we cannot resolve any outstanding issues that will allow this bill to quickly arrive on the President's desk. The President said he wants it before Memorial Day. I think we can do that. My hope is that we will complete the work on Tuesday and, by the end of next week, maybe we can send the bill to the President for his signature.

I cannot think of a better message to the American people. I say that while my colleagues and the President would like a bill, the people we represent need a bill to provide economic relief for them. That was the design of this legislation—to provide needed economic relief for millions of Americans, who have watched rates and fees go through the ceiling.

This bill is not going to solve every economic problem. For the first time that I know of in the history of the Congress, despite these cards being available for half a century and more, in some cases, we are taking a step to reform an industry that, frankly, has gotten out of control when it comes to fees and rates, as we have witnessed with 70 million accounts having interest rates raised in the last couple of years, and one out of every four families being adversely affected.

Every member of the Chamber can tell an anecdote about constituents who have faced difficulties with credit card fees and interest rate hikes. I think we are all pleased that we are finally doing something in a meaningful way on this. It is not the end of the discussion.

There are a lot of other aspects of the industry that need reform as well. My colleagues are anxious to get to those, including the interchange issue, which retailers have talked to me about for years. We can try to provide relief for them. We don't provide real relief in this bill, except a study that Senators CORKER, DURBIN, and others, including myself, want to be done to get answers on how to reform the interchange fees issue. I hope we can get answers to that and talk about a legislative fix in that area as well. This bill avoids that question, not because we disagree with reforming the interchange fee but we felt it was more than we could take on with this bill.

This bill only came out of the Banking Committee with a 1-vote margin, 12 to 11. It is a very delicate balance. We needed to be careful not to tilt this legislation to such a degree that we would have lost the opportunity to provide any reform at all. We are not potentates here; we have to work with each other. We have done that in this case and produced a very fine piece of legislation.

I hope my colleagues will lend their support to this legislation when we have the final consideration of it on Tuesday.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate go into a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE NATION'S PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate this Nation's many dedicated public servants.

As we confront the global outbreak of the 2009 influenza H1N1 virus, public servants are on the front lines in a coordinated Federal, State, and local government response, working to provide the public with accurate, real time information to reduce the possibility of further infection. At our borders and ports, Federal employees are monitoring incoming visitors for signs of illness. State and local health officials are monitoring, testing, and treating people with suspected cases of the flu virus.

This effort is one of the many contributions hardworking, talented government employees make to improve our lives every day. They deliver our mail, care for our veterans, guard our prisons, protect our borders and communities, defend our country, and educate our children. They influence the lives of people around the world as diplomats, promoting peace, prosperity, and democracy in conflicted regions, and providing critical assistance to developing and impoverished communities.

In honor of these and many other unsung activities of public servants, I offered an annual resolution, S. Res. 87, which unanimously passed the Senate on April 21, 2009, to recognize the dedicated men and women who serve our country, honor those brave heroes who died in service to their country, and encourage all Americans to consider a career in public service.

Last week was Public Service Recognition Week. We set aside the first full week of May to recognize and honor the accomplishments of Federal, State, and local government employees. Across the country, hundreds of events took place in appreciation of the millions of public servants who serve as the quiet bedrock of our Nation's workforce. This year's celebration included a 4-day exhibition on the National Mall where more than 100 civilian and military Federal agencies showcased their programs and initiatives to the public.

In his 1961 inaugural address, President John F. Kennedy called on all Americans to make a commitment to public service. His call inspired a generation to serve. President Barack Obama again called for action in his inaugural address. Public interest in Federal Government jobs is increasing, but we must ensure that Americans who embrace a public service career are not deterred by the lengthy and complicated hiring process. Last week, I held a hearing on how to improve Federal job recruitment so that we can harness the renewed spirit of service that President Obama has inspired. There is no better time to rise to the occasion and serve.

As a former teacher and a life-long public servant, I am proud to highlight

the importance of Public Service Recognition Week. This is a critical time for our Nation, with many domestic and global challenges. Although we have designated a week to honor government employees, I rise today to stress the importance of remembering the invaluable service of public servants throughout the year. Our way of life—and the strength of our country would not exist without the work of public employees. And so to all the dedicated men and women currently serving our Nation, mahalo nui loa—thank you very much—for all that you do.

Mr. President, I am including Director John Berry's letter of support for Public Service Recognition Week with my statement and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT,
Washington, DC, May 5, 2009.

Hon. DANIEL K. AKAKA,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to thank you for your sponsorship of S. Res. 87, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 4 through 10, 2009, and throughout the year.

As you know, Public Service Recognition Week, celebrated the first Monday through Sunday in May since 1985, is a time set aside each year to honor the men and women who serve America as Federal, state and local government employees. Throughout the Nation and around the world, public employees use the week to educate citizens about the many ways in which government serves the people and how government services make life better for all of us.

As the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Public Service Recognition Week is the perfect time to spread President Obama's call to public service and to recognize public employees. I am committed to making the Federal government a better place to work by speeding up the hiring process, increasing opportunities for veterans, and implementing programs that help employees balance work and family life.

Thank you for your continued leadership in recognizing the hard work of our public servants during Public Service Recognition Week and I look forward to working with you to make the federal government a better place to work.

Sincerely,

JOHN BERRY,
Director.

REMEMBERING REVEREND ROBERT CORNELL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the life of Rev. Robert Cornell, a great Wisconsin public servant and teacher. For most of his life, Reverend Cornell called northeast Wisconsin his home—as a student at St. Norbert Abbey, a Congressman, and a professor of history and government at St. Norbert College.

Reverend Cornell was only the second Catholic priest to be elected to Congress when he represented Wisconsin's Eighth Congressional District from 1975 to 1979. Just as he did all his life, Reverend Cornell came to Washington to fight for education and social justice for the Wisconsinites he represented.

But his greatest accomplishments may have come in the halls of St. Norbert College as he used history to help guide young Wisconsinites to new levels of academic achievement. During his decades in the classroom, Reverend Cornell would bring history to life like no other. He brought out the best in his students with captivating lectures that displayed his tremendous knowledge, experience, and wit. His impact will certainly be felt for years to come through the countless students he taught and mentored.

Reverend Cornell stands out as a towering figure in the history of northeast Wisconsin. His influence on education and public service has left a lasting mark on our State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHUCK MACK

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased and honored to pay tribute to Chuck Mack for his many years of service to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

After 43 years of dedicated service, Mr. Mack is stepping down from his positions as secretary-treasurer for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 70, and president of the Teamsters Joint Council 7. While Mr. Mack may be leaving his current leadership positions within the Teamsters, he is by no means retiring. Instead, he is heeding the call of the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust, where he will now serve as the co-chair of the organization.

During his four-plus decades of service to the Teamsters, Mr. Mack has worked tirelessly to help negotiate first-class rights for bay area workers and their families. With a reputation for integrity and hard work, Mr. Mack has provided the Teamsters with unparalleled leadership in major labor disputes in northern California throughout his tenure. I particularly commend Mr. Mack for his efforts in advancing environmental justice issues for port communities throughout the San Francisco bay area.

As he transitions to his new position as cochair of the Western Conference of Teamsters Pension Trust, I applaud Mr. Mack's continued involvement with the Teamsters Union. Unions provide valuable representation to American workers and their families, and have worked to establish many of the rights and privileges that we now take for granted—rights and privileges that have helped millions of workers achieve the American dream.

After over four decades of service to the International Brotherhood of

Teamsters, I remain in admiration of Chuck's strong sense of civic duty, his unparalleled service to the labor movement, and his tireless advocacy for workers' rights at the local, State, and national levels. I wish him many more years of continued community involvement and leadership.●

TRIBUTE TO C. BRENT DEVORE

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I honor the career of Dr. C. Brent DeVore, the dean of higher education presidents in central Ohio. For 25 years, Dr. DeVore has served Otterbein College, its students, and the Westerville, OH, community. He retires at the end of this academic year.

A son of Zanesville, OH, who earned degrees from Ohio University and Kent State University, Dr. DeVore has dedicated his professional life to improving higher education for America's young people.

Dr. DeVore became president of Otterbein College in 1984. He helped develop the institution from a small, liberal arts college to a nationally ranked, comprehensive college. Dr. DeVore put Otterbein on stable financial footing, increasing the school's endowment by fifteenfold. He oversaw a transformation of the campus infrastructure, including the construction of new academic buildings, residence halls, athletic facilities, and an expansion of the library.

More importantly, Dr. DeVore helped transform the human capital of the college. The graduate education program was added in 1989, the graduate nursing program in 1993, and the MBA program in 1997. The number of faculty holding advanced degrees nearly doubled. Student diversity increased, enrollment doubled, retention rates soared, and the quality of incoming students skyrocketed.

Throughout Dr. DeVore's career, he has worked to develop innovative and comprehensive programs to encourage young people to engage in community and volunteer service and oversaw the creation of Otterbein's Center for Community Engagement. In 2007, Otterbein was one of only three schools across the country to receive the Presidential Award for General Community Service in the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

While, Dr. DeVore's leadership at Otterbein will be missed, his legacy will remain for generations. Dr. DeVore has made Otterbein College better, he has made Ohio better, and he has made our Nation better. I wish him well and hope that his service to Ohio will continue in the next phase of his outstanding career.●

OHIO'S SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the work of Carla Eng, president of Abstract Displays Incorporated, who has been named the Ohio